ARTICLES
to bee enquired of in the
Ordinary Visitation of the
Right Worshipfull
Dr. HVTCHINSON,
Arch-Deacon of *Lewes*.
1641.

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The forme of the Oath to bee miniſtred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen.

YOu ſhall ſweare, that you and every of you, ſhall duely conſider, and diligently inquire of all and every of theſe Articles given you in charge, and that without affection, malice, favour, feare of diſpleaſure, or hope of gaine or reward, you ſhall preſent all and every ſuch perſon that now is, or of late was abiding or inhabiting within your Pariſh, who hath committed, or is ſuſpected to have committed any offence, or made any default mentioned in theſe or any of theſe Articles, wherein you ſhall deale uprightly, fully, plainely and truely, neither preſenting, nor ſparing to preſent any contrary to truth, having GOD before your eyes, with an earneſt zeale to maintaine truth, and to ſuppreſſe ſinne and errour: So GOD you helpe, and the holy Contents of this Booke.

ARTICLES concerning Consecrated places, Churches, Church-yards, Chappels of Ease.

WHat Church have you for Divine Service? what Chappels of ease belonging to them? is any part of such Church or Chappell demolished or put to any prophane use?

2 In what repaire is your Church and Chappels, and every part of them? are the wals & roofe firme? the windowes fairely glazed and unbroken? the floores decently paved?

3 What kind of covering hath the Church or Chappell, is it of lead or tiles? or how else defended from the weather? Hath lead bin taken from any part of it, and slates, tiles, or something else used in the place of it? if so, by whom?

4 Is your steeple furnished with Bels, or have any of them bin taken downe, or sold away?

5 Is your Church swept and cleansed, at least once a weeke? the wals whited, the windowes and roofe kept cleane from cobwebs, the dores kept lock'd, the Portall not made a lodging for beggers?

6 What galleries or scaffolds have you in your Church, or to what

use? whether there be not conveniency of roome for the Parishioners to be present at Sermons, or divine Service without them?

7 In what manner are your Pewes built? are they decent and uniforme? are not some so much higher than others, as may hinder their neighbours in hearing divine Service?

8 Is your Chancell severed with a Partition from the body of the Church, is it decently kept, not encombred with Pewes or any other lumber?

9 What quantity of ground have you consecrated for a place of Buriall? how is it fenced or mounded? hath there bin encrochment made upon any part of it?

10 Is the Church-yard kept cleane from feeding & dunging of Cattell? especially from swine rooting up the graves of dead bodies? or what other nusances are there from any houses that abutt upon it?

11 Have there bin kept in the Church, Chappell, or Church-yard, any Playes, Feasts, Suppers, Church-ales, temporall Courts, or Leet, Lay-Juries, Musters, meeting for rates, taxations, levies, especially at the Communion Table by the Parishioners?

Of Church Ornaments, Utensils, Possessions.

HAve you a strong Chest or Boxe for almes for the Poore, with three locks and keyes, one for the Rector, or Vicar, the other for the Church-wardens?

2 What Font have you for the Sacrament of Baptisme, of what materials is it made, where placed, whether towards ye entrance of the Church or no, is it first or moveable, is it decently covered, cleanly kept, or is there any Bason, or vessell used instead of it?

3 Have you a convenient pew for him that officiates to read divine Service in, a Bible of the largest Volume, a Common Prayer Booke in folio, the Booke of Homilies, allowed by Authority, a faire Surplice or two to be used by the Minister and him that shall assist him in the administration of the Sacrament?

4 Have you a Pulpit so conveniently placed, as the Auditory may best heare? is it decently made and accommodated with a faire cloth and cushion?

5 Have you a Register Booke in Parchment for Christnings, Weddings, Burials, is the same kept in all points according to the Canons, is a true transcript thereof brought in yearely into ye Bishops Registry within a month after our Lady day in March?

6 What coverings have you for the holy Table? have you one of

like

silke, or some good stuffe to cover it at all times, another of faire cleane linnen for the time of celebration of the Sacrament?

7 Have you a faire Communion Cup and Flagon, with a dish for the Bread, of what metall are they, pewter, tin, or silver?

8 Are the ten Commandements set upon the East end of your Church or Chappell, where the people may best see to read them, with other well chosen sentences of Scripture upon the walls?

9 Have any ancient monuments in your Church bin defaced, the Brasse pull'd off, the stones taken away, or the Inscriptions rased, as also what Historicall representations in windowes have bin defaced or broken?

10 Is there a dwelling house & Glebe belonging to the Parsonage or Vicarage? is the house kept in good repaire, with all barnes, stables, out-houses belonging to it? Is there an exact Terrier made of all the Glebe lands, medowes, gardens, orchards, houses, stocks, tenements, pensions or portions of tithes belonging to it? Is this Terrier made in Parchment, and returned into the Bishops Registry?

11 What timber trees grow in the Church yard, or upon the Glebe? hath any bin fell'd, or by whom?

Concerning the Clergy.

IS your Minister a Parson, Vicar, or Curate? or have you besides him any Preacher or Lecturer? and how authoriz'd?

2 If Parson or Vicar, doth he reside upon his Benefice? If not, what relefe doth he give to the poore? how long in the yeare is he absent? how dispensed withall? by whom is the place supplied?

3 If hee bee a Curate, is he allowed by the Bishop under his hand and seale? hath he an honest and sufficient salary? or doth hee serve more than one Church or Chappell in one day?

4 Is your Minister of honest, sober, exemplary life? a maintainer and procurer of peace among those that are committed to his charge? or doth he give any just scandal or offence by haunting of Taverns, Innes, Ale-houses, by using unlawfull games, frequenting of lose debauched company or by going any other irregular way which may be a staine to his profession, and is punishable by the censures of the Church?

5 Doth your Minister or Curate use such decent and comely apparrell, as becommeth the gravity of his calling, and may distinguish him from the Laity? or doth he weare long haire, deepe ruffes, falling bands downe to his shoulders, or any other unseemely garments not proper to his Ministery?

6 Doth your Minister use such servile bodily labour as is not fit for one set apart by Imposition of hands for Divine Imployments? Is he a defamed Usurer or Broker, a Chopper of Church-Livings, a trader in Faires or Markets, doth he idly vague up and downe, a fault so often censured in ancient Counsels? or doth he any way else so entangle himselfe in secular affaires, as to neglect the duties of his calling?

7 Is your Minister so zealous of the good of his Flock, as diligently to labour the reclaiming of Recusants of all sorts within their charge, whether they be such as with perill of their soules superstitiously adhere to the Church of Rome, or such in the other extreme, who having perversly relinquish'd our Communion, finde nothing to adhere to but their owne private fancies?

8 Is divine Service orderly performe'd in your Church by your Minister or Curate upon appointed times as the booke of Common Prayer prescribeth, without any kind of alteration, addition, or omission? particularly doth he read the Letany on Wednesdaies and Fridaies?

9 Is he entirely conformable to all Orders, Rites, Ceremonies of the Church, or using them onely for a shew, doth he privately or publikely speake any thing in derogation of them?

10 Doth he in celebration of divine Service use such vestments as are enjoyned by authority, doth he constantly in performing that Duty weare a Surplice, and Hood (if he be a Graduate) suteable to his degree.

11 Doth he preach in such a solemne habit as becomes him, in a long Gowne and Cassocke, not in a riding or ambulatory Cloake?

12 Doth he in his Sermons preach Christ and him crucified, abstaining from those high points of speculation which have in severall ages rais'd combustion in Christian Churches; and therefore to preserve peace amongst us, forbidden by his sacred Majesty in his late Declaration?

13 Doth he sometimes take occasion in his Sermons to teach obedience to the King as supreame, to all Magistrates substituted under him, to all Lawes of the State, all Canons and Constitutions of the Church, which being lawfully enjoyn'd, we are to obey, not only for feare, but for conscience sake?

14 Hath your Minister at any time reveal'd the Confession of any made to him in secret, contrary to the 113 Canon, and so hath brought a scandall upon that ancient Remedy of sin and sinners?

15 Doth he at any time from the Pulpit point out particular men, damning some and saving others; and in his invectives against vice doth hee fall from the generall: and particularly designe such as hee thinkes delinquents?

16 Doth your Preacher or Lecturer read divine Service before his Sermon or Lecture? doth he besides twice a yeare at least administer the Sacraments in his owne person?

17 Doth he in Rogation weeke yearely use the accustomed perambulation, informing his Parishioners not only of the civill use of that custome, but also of the religious, to pray to God for his blessing on the fruites of the earth, and to deprecate his anger?

18 Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publike or private Fasts, Prophesies, or exercises not approved by Law or publike authority? or hath he bin present at any Conventicle, where either the doctrine or discipline of the Church hath bin traduced?

19 Doth he in the time of divine Service use due and lowly reverence at the mention of the blessed Name of Jesus, instructing others to doe the like, not as an adoration of the bare sound of the word, but as an humble acknowledgment that there is not either in Heaven or earth any name by which we shall be saved, but that alone?

20 Is your Minister a Preacher licensed by lawfull Authority or not? if he be, having no lawfull impediment, doth he preach ordinarily in his Cure? If he be not, doth he procure Sermons once a month at least to be preached by such as are lawfully licensed?

21 Doth your Minister upon every Sunday when there is no Sermon, read an Homily out of the Booke appointed?

22 Doth he once in the yeare upon some Sundayes or Holidayes read over the Booke of Canons before Evening Prayer, that every one may the better know what the Church requires of them?

Of the Sacrament of Baptisme.

DOth your Minister or Curate in their Sermons, or otherwise, or any other, teach or maintaine that Baptisme, in Gods ordinary dispensation with man is not the dooze that lets us into the Church, nor any way necessary to salvation? doth hee not admonish you that are his parishioners not to deferre it beyond the accustomed time, least some suddaine sicknesse should take away the infant without the seale of the new covenant?

2 Doth your Minister baptize the child at the Font the place assign'd for it, doth he doe it in cleane pure water? Doth hee take it in his armes, signe it with the signe of the Crosse, asking such Questions, and using such prayers as are enioyned?

3 Doth he baptize any without any Godfathers or Godmothers to answer for them? Or doth he not give to them such directions as are prescribed in the Rituall for the education of the child in true religion?

4 In case of necessity where the Child is in danger of death, doth the Minister being sent for, refuse or delay to come to give it private Baptisme? or doth he privately baptize where there is no necessity?

5 Have any children in your parish dyed unbaptized, how long remained they so before they dyed, and by whose default was it that they were deprived of that holy Sacrament?

Of Confirmation and Catechisme preparatory to it.

IS your Minister carefull in examining and instructing the youth & ignorant persons of the parish, by teaching them Principles and grounds of Christian Religion delivered in that short Catechisme, approved by the Church, and inserted in the common prayer Booke?

2 When children by the benefit of thus Catechizing are able to give an account of their faith, doth hee admonish their Parents to bring them to the Bishop to receive by Prayer such confirmation as may strengthen them in Baptismall Grace received?

Of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

IS this blessed Sacrament administred in the Church every month upon the first Sunday, or at least thrice in the yeare, whereof Easter to be one?

2 Is it administred in that reverend and decent manner as becomes so high a mystery? are the words of Consecration solemnly pronounced? the Elements reverently touched and handled?

3 Doth your Minister deliver this Sacrament to any standing, or sitting, or in any other posture than upon the knée? doth he first receive it himselfe, and after deliver it to the Communicants, not in grosse, but one by one, using all the words enioyned severally to each of them?

4 Doth he admit to this blessed Sacrament any person excommunicated, or any publike, notorious, scandalous offender, without satisfaction made unto the Church, or doth he admit any under age who are not yet able to render an account of their faith?

5 Are the names of such as intend to receive given in to the Minister over night, that he may before hand know who, and how many they are, and that the bread & wine may be proportionably prepared?

6 Is the Bread and Wine of the best sort, is a sufficient quantity of each provided? or if either faile, are the words of Consecration renewed over them before they be distributed?

Of

Of Marriage.

ARe the Banes of Marriage asked three severall times openly in the Church upon three severall Sundayes, at such time when the Church is fullest? or if not, hath there bin dispensation not onely obtained, but presented to the Minister before Marriage?

2 Is Marriage solemnized openly in the Church, not in private roomes, or chambers, at due times not prohibited, and due houres betweene eight and twelve in the fore-noone?

3 Doth your Minister use in Marriage the ordinary Rites of the Church with the usuall prayers, and blessing? and doth hee performe this solemnity with a Ring, and joyning of hands?

4 Have you a Table set in your Church or Chancell of the forbidden degrees, that incestuous Marriages may not have ỳ plea of ignorance?

5 Be there any in your Parish who are married within the degrees of affinity, or consanguinity by Law prohibited?

6 Are there any in your Parish being lawfully married, who live apart one from another without due separation by law, or who being legally divorced kéepe company with any other at bed or at boord?

Of the Visitation of the sicke.

IS your Minister diligent in visiting the sick, especially such as being upon their deathbeds, stand most in need of the work of his Ministery? Doth he pray with them the prayers of the Church, adding such devotions of his owne as the necessity of the party doth require?

2 Doth he over-rigorously and unseasonably presse to them at that time the heavy judgments of the Law, without intermingling such words of comfort as may set forth ỳ mercy of God to a departing soule

3 Doth he exhort them at that time not to let any hainous sin lye heavie on their conscience, but to disburthen themselves of it? doth he upon confession made, and all the signes of true repentance showne, pronounce the words of absolution prescribed by the Church?

4 Doth he excite the sicke party to lay up treasure for himselfe in heaven, by doing vere charitable works, and disposing some part of his goods to the honour of him who hath given him all?

5 Doth he last of all seasonably administer to him the holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, while he is yet sensible of the comforts of it, and before the extreamity of his disease hath rendred him lesse capable?

6 In the meane time is there a passing bell tolled, that they who are

within the hearing of it, may be moved in their private devotions to recommend the state of the departing soule into the hands of their Redeemer, a duty which all Christians are bound to, out of a fellow feeling of their common Mortality?

Of Burials.

HAth the Minister refused to bury any dying within the bosome of the Church, being required?

2 Hath he buried any in consecrated ground who have been murtherers of themselves, or cast out of the Church by excommunication?

3 Doth he meet the corps at the Church stile, conduct it to the Church, goe before it to the grave, and using such prayers as are prescribed, commit it to the ground as becommeth the body of a Christian?

4 Are so many buryed in the Church or Chancell, as may occasion digging up of dead bodies not yet fully consumed, or as may breed annoyance to the living?

5 Are the graves digged deep enough, and is the ground broken up covered againe with stone or brick?

Of Churching of Women after child-bed.

DOth your Minister observe the order of the Church in Churching of women: doth he do it in private houses when there is no urgent necessity, or publikely in the Church?

2 Doth he goe up into the Chancell, the woman also repayring thither, kneeling as neare the Communion Table as may be, and if there be a Communion, doth thee communicate, in acknowledgement of the great blessing received by her safe delivery?

3 Doth the woman who is to be churched use the ancient accustomed habit in such cases, with a white vaile or kerchiefe upon her head?

Of Schoolemasters.

WHat Schoole have you in your Parish? is it a free Schoole endowed? what maintenance hath it? is any part of the maintenance kept back, or otherwise imployed? if so, how or by whom?

2 Doth any openly or privately in your Parish, teach without Licence of the Ordinary? is he conformable to the Religion established in the Church of England? and doth he endeavour to render his scholers so?

3 Doth he to this end teach and instruct his youth in no other Catechisme than such as is allowed by authority?

4 Is there any who keep Schoole in the Chancell or Church, by which meanes that holy place is many wayes prophaned?

Of

Of Physicians and Chyrurgions.

WHat Physitions or Chyrurgions have you in your Parish? have they been train'd up in the study of Physick or Chyrurgery at home or abroad and by what licence doe they practise?

Of Parish Clarkes and Sextons.

HAve you a fit Parish Clarke, aged twenty yeeres at least, of honest conversation, able to read and write, diligent in his office, serviceable to his Minister? is he approved by the Ordinary? hath hee taken his Oath as is required?

2 What wages hath your Clarke and Sexton according to the ancient Custome of the Parish? are the wages duly payed, or by whom kept back?

3 Doth your Clarke and Sexton doe their duty in keeping the Church cleane, the doores locked, or is any thing lost or spoyl'd in his Church through his default? doth he suffer any unseasonable ringing, or any prophane exercise in your Church?

4 Hath your Parish Clarke or Sexton taken upon them to meddle with any thing above his office, as Churching of women, burying of the dead, or such like?

Of Church-wardens.

ARe you the Church-wardens lawfully chosen according to ỹ Canon? have you taken your Oath for performing the duties of your place?

2 Have any who have borne the same office before you fail'd in exhibiting their presentments to the Ordinary at the times appointed? have they retained any of the Church goods without making a iust account? or have they not faithfully distributed the Alms of the Church to the use of the poore?

3 Is there decency and order kept in your Church in time of divine Service? do you take notice of such as absent themselves on Sundays, Holidayes, times of Letany? Doe you diligently enquire of such as remaine in Taverns, Innes, Ale-houses in the time of Prayers or Sermons? as also such as forbeare comming to the holy Sacrament thrice in the yeare, being above sixteene yeares of age?

4 Have you suffered any strange Preacher to preach in your Church without seeing his licence, by which you may know how hs is authoriz'd? do you note the names of such strangers as do preach in a Booke for that purpose, and by whom they are licensed?

5 Is any Legacy withholden being given to the Church or the poor for the mending of high-wais or otherwise by the Testators? in whose hands is it? by whom given? by whom withholden?

6 Doth any man trouble, threaten, or revile you for doing your duty? Hath any gone about to tempt you to leave unpresented any offences committed contrary to the Articles given you in charge, or to perswade you that you may dispense with your oathes by using equivocation, mental reservation, or double meaning in making your presentments?

7 Doe you know of any thing complained of that is not yet redressed.

Concerning the Parishioners.

DO your Parishioners frequent the Church in all times of divine Service? doe they behave themselves reverently in that holy place, do they keep their Hats off? doe they devoutly kneele, when the Confession, the ten Commandements, and all Prayers & Collects are read? do they stand up at the reading of the Creeds, and the Holy Gospell? and do they use due, and lowly reverence, when they hear the blessed name of IESVS?

2 Do all the Parishioners above sixteene yeares of age receive the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper in your Church thrice every years, whereof once at Easter? and doe they all (none excepted) devoutly kneele at the receiving thereof?

3 Do any of the Parishioners, being admonished thereof, neglect or refuse to send their children, servants, apprentises to the Minister to be catechised on Sundais & Holydays at such times as are appointed? Do any so sent refuse to come, or being come, refuse to be catechised?

4 Do any of your Parish entertaine within their house any sojourner, common guest, or other persons who refuse to frequent divine Service, or receive the holy Communion as aforesaid? present their names their quality or condition.

5 What Popish Recusants are there in your Parish, or other Sectaries? how long have they abstained from the divine Service or Communion? present their names and their quality, and whether they bee excommunicate or not.

6 Whether any of the said Recusants do labour to seduce or withdraw others from the Religion professed in the Church of England? do they instruct their familes or children in their own errors? or have any of them, at any time being called to it refused to take the oath of Alegiãce

7 Are there any in your Parish who hold or frequent private conventicles? or who publikely or privately speake against the Booke of Common Prayer, against the Rites and Ceremonies, against the Articles published and maintayned by the Church of England, against ye Church government under his Majesty by the Hierarchy of Bishops? Are there any authors, maintainers, or favourers of heresie or schisme,

or

or that he suspecteth probably to be Anabaptists, Libertines, Brownists, of the family of Love, or of any other heresie or schisme, present their names.

8 Are there any in your Parish who retain, sell, vtter or disperse any Popish bookes or writings, or other bookes, writings, defamatory libels of any Sectaries touching the Religion, State and Government, either Ecclesiasticall or Civill of this Kingdome of England?

9 Do any of your Parishioners vsually go to any other Churches to hear diuine Service or Sermons, or to receiue the holy Communion? do any of them procure their children to be baptized in another parish? or do any strangers resort to your Church in diuine Seruice, to heare Sermons, or to receiue the holy Communion?

10 Are there any in your Parish who will come to Church to heare the Sermon, but will not come to heare the publike Service appointed in the Booke of Common Prayer, making a schisme or diuision betweene the use of publike prayer and preaching?

11 What persons within your Parish for any offence, contumacy, or crime of Ecclesiasticall cognizance doe stand excommunicate? how long haue they so stood? do they presume notwithstanding that censure to be present with you in time of diuine Service? and what persons doe wittingly and vsually keepe them company?

12 Hath any in your Parish exercised any trade, or labour, bought or sold, or kept open shops vpon any Sunday, by themselues or their seruants, or haue otherwise prophaned the said day by gaming, drinking or dancing in time of diuine Service? you are to present the names of such delinquents, with the names of the parties in whose house the offence hath been committed.

13 Is the fift of November kept holy according to the ordinance in that behalfe, that the memory may neuer dy of the great mercy shewd to this State and Church in that wonderfull deliverance?

14 Hath any of your Parish stricken or laid violent hands either vpon your Minister or vpon any other in your Church or Church-yard? Hath any quarrelled or giuen opprobrious speeches within those precincts? hath any slandered your Minister to the scandall of his vocatiō, or defamed any of his neighbours touching any crime of Ecclesiasticall cognisance?

15 Are there any who not being in Orders do exercise any Priestly or Ministeriall Office in the Church, Chappell, or Church yard? or on the other side are there any who haue taken vpon them the order of Priesthood, or Deacon, haue since relinquished the same, using any other kind of life?

16 Haue

16 Have any of your Parish suppressed the last Wills of the dead, or administred the goods of the dead without lawfull authority? Are there any goods not administred, or any Wills unproved? Faile not to present the Executors, with all others faulty therein?

17 Have any in your Parish harboured any woman unlawfully begotten with child, and suffered her to depart away before she hath bin punished for her offence?

18 Are there any in your Parish to your knowledge, or by common fame or report, which have committed incest, adultery, or fornication, or that have attempted or solicited the chastity of any woman, or which are reputed to be common drunkards, swearers, blasphemers, bawds? or are there any in your Parish vehemently suspected for any of these crimes?

Memorandum, It is lawfull for every Minister, be he Parson, Vicar or Curate, to present any enormity or common fame of any enormous crime that shall arise within his Parish: And whereas it seemeth by the Canon that the Church Officers are not to present oftner then twice a yeare, It is to be understood as in that Canon appeareth, of Presentments in generall. But it is lawfull and meet for every Minister, Churchwardens and Side-men, to make notorious offenders knowne to their Ordinaries as often as occasion is offered, to the end that such offences may in due time be punished and reformed.

FINIS.